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COUNTY LIBRARIES AND THEIR CATALOG  
PROBLEMS  
(See p. 151)

The last number was a question box and discussion led by Miss Sula Wagner of the St. Louis Public Library. A list of questions had been sent in covering such topics as: added entries, different editions, analytics, waste in ordering L. C. cards, periodicals with changed names, call numbers, arrangement of catalog cards and problems in classification and subject headings. Miss Wagner spoke of the practice in the St. Louis Public Library. The discussion was participated in by Miss Ethel Bond, Miss Hall, Miss Wiggington, Mr. Hastings and others. On account of lack of time, the discussion could not be continued long enough to consider all of the questions submitted.

In Miss Wagner's introductory remarks, she quoted a portion of a letter from Mr. Martel. In the letter, Mr. Martel asked if it might not be feasible to invite all cat-

alogers to register with the Chairman of the Section or with A. L. A. headquarters, stating their education, training, experience, special lines (languages, subjects, etc.), salary received and compensation desired. After discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the section:

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Mr. Martel's suggestion, the incoming chairman undertake to send out a questionnaire from which she can compile a list of catalogers, their experience, salary, etc., such list ultimately to be used by the A. L. A. headquarters in filling positions.

The nominating committee, consisting of Miss Wagner, Miss Merrill and Miss Bond, nominated for chairman, Miss Ellen M. Chandler, head of the Catalog Department of the Buffalo Public Library; for secretary, Miss Julia T. Lynch of the Salt Lake City Free Public Library. These officers were elected, and the meeting adjourned.

NELLIE M. ROBERTSON,  
Secretary.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS SECTION

The Children's Librarians Section of the American Library Association met for the 22nd time on the evening of June 3, 1920, at the Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, Miss Elizabeth Knapp, chief of Children's Department, Public Library, Detroit, Mich., presiding, and gave its endorsement to the Children's Book Week Movement, planned by the American Booksellers' Association, and to the plan of the Book Committee of the Art War Relief Committee for sending children's books to the devastated countries of Europe.

The main feature of the evening was the discussion of questions suggested in replies to a questionnaire sent out by the chairman to 50 libraries. The question of reviewing children's books received the most attention and was very ably discussed by Miss May Massee, editor of the *A. L. A. Booklist*, who explained why the *Booklist* is only as good, or as poor, as those who check its tentative lists make it and asked

for more help from children's librarians in checking and annotating. A committee consisting of Miss Della MacGregor, St. Paul Public Library, and Miss Janet Jerome, Denver Public Library, was appointed to work with Miss Massee on a plan to get more reviews of new books from children's librarians of the country.

The value of subscription sets was discussed, as well as many other interesting topics relating to library work with children, such as changing methods in pedagogy, the loss and damaging of books and the question of how to recruit new workers for library work with children in face of the present conditions which offer more money for work requiring less preparation and less personal fitness, and the loss of readers after leaving school.

A nominating committee was appointed consisting of Mabel C. True, Supervisor of children's work, Kansas City; Gertrude E. Avey, Chief of children's work, Cincin-

nati; Julia W. Williamson, Supervisor story telling and club work, Philadelphia. This committee was asked to report at the next meeting, Friday evening.

A small room where children's librarians might confer upon problems relating to their work was reserved and certain persons scheduled to introduce persons in this room between programs.

A joint meeting of the School Libraries Section and Children's Librarians Section was held in the ball room of the Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, on the evening of Friday, June 4, 1920, Miss Knapp presiding.

A paper ON RECENT BOOKS OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL WORKERS WITH CHILDREN was omitted because the person asked to give it was unable to be present.

Miss HARRIET A. WOOD, State Supervisor of school libraries, St. Paul, Minn., gave a very able paper on

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE SCHOOL LIBRARY: A JOINT OPPORTUNITY

(See p. 141)

Miss Wood took up many phases of library work with schools, stressing the need of keeping step with new pedagogical ideas and harmony between school libraries and public libraries. She also emphasized the necessity of awakening joy in reading rather than using too much compulsion. She spoke of instruction in use of libraries as necessary from first grade through college and maintained that many analytics in the catalog aid in such work. The opportunity of the school library to study and encourage recruits for library work was suggested and the question of allowing children to read books, under supervision, from the adult collection was discussed.

Mr. J. T. JENNINGS, Librarian, Seattle Public Library, told of his experiences in organizing work with the schools, especially the high schools.

Next on the program, Miss GERTRUDE ANDRUS, manager of Frederick and Nelson's Bookshop for boys and girls, Seattle, Wash., gave a very interesting talk on

BUYING BOOKS FOR A CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT  
(See p. 146)

Miss Andrus contrasted the amounts of money spent in ordering and told interesting anecdotes of the attitudes of the booksellers toward her library experience and the great assistance they had been to her in getting the commercial viewpoint. She said booksellers, as well as librarians, are too inclined to be misled by high priced books. Among other interesting points drawn from her experience, was the value of something to attract children, as the hobby horse in the book department of the store and the open shelves with chairs and tables for older children to read. She stated that the book displays in the library must be more closely linked with the store book department and that people do value librarians' opinions in regard to books because they feel that there is no commercial interest involved. The Children's Book Week will assist much in bringing closer relationships between sellers and librarians and in raising standards of children's books everywhere.

Mr. CARL H. MILAM, Executive Secretary of the A. L. A., spoke on the place of the Enlarged Program for school libraries and library work with children. Many persons spoke in favor of Mr. Milam's suggestions and Mr. Kerr, Librarian State Normal School, Emporia, Kans., offered a list of things the school librarians would like to see undertaken by the Enlarged Program Committee.

It was moved and carried that the School Libraries Section and Children's Librarians Section in joint meeting approve the statement as to library work with children in schools and libraries given in the *Restatement of the Enlarged Program of the A. L. A.* It was left to the incoming chairman to appoint a committee to suggest needed action.

Mr. ERNEST REECE, Principal New York Library School, read a special report, for Miss Pritchard, Chairman of the School Libraries Section, giving the results of a

conference on the content for a course for training school librarians.

The nominating committee offered the following ticket which was voted upon and accepted. Miss Alice Hazeltine, Supervisor of Children's work, St. Louis Public Library, Chairman; Miss Annie S. Cutter, Cleveland Public Library, Vice-chairman; Miss Grace Endicott, Head of Children's department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Secretary.

ADAH F. WHITCOMB,  
Secretary.

Supervisor of Thomas Hughes Room and  
Director of the Training Class, Chi-  
cago Public Library.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRODUCTION OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Committee on the production of Children's Books submits to the Children's Librarians Section of the American Library Association the following report for the year. The Committee has followed the recommendation made by last year's Committee that we study carefully the list of ten titles to which their originally long list of out-of-print books was finally reduced. One of these titles was found to be in print. One was superseded by a later book. One title was out of date, in its information. Three seemed to be in slight demand. The remaining titles are apparently wanted by libraries and accordingly they were incorporated in a new list, prepared by the present Committee.

During the past year, far more than previously, books that the libraries need imperatively have been dropped from publishers' lists, owing to the greatly increased cost of production.

Acting upon the suggestions contained in the letters from publishers to last year's Committee, we are attempting to secure an expression of opinion as to the use of these books in public libraries in order to furnish, not a guaranty, but an estimated measure of the extent of that use.

It seemed to the Committee best to keep the list reasonably short and twenty-eight titles, reported as wanted in different parts of the country, were selected for immediate consideration.

These titles have been submitted to the libraries in cities over 300,000 in population, with the request that they be checked and the number of copies each library

might buy, indicated tentatively. Not all the lists are returned, but the larger proportion have been received and the results are very encouraging. They show that for the majority of these titles the library demand is probably sufficient to secure republication. When the returns are all in, the Committee will prefer their requests to the different publishers.

A second list may be issued if the first venture meets with action by the publishing houses. The Committee has already in hand suggestions for it. We find that in some cases firms are reprinting books temporarily out of stock, reported to us as out of print and unobtainable.

Quite as pressing as the matter of out-of-print books, is the subject of the physical make-up of books that the libraries are receiving. From every quarter come protests against the quality of paper used and the flimsy character of bindings, calculated to last, under library wear, only a few weeks at most.

While librarians recognize many of the difficulties confronting the book producer and know that increased cost of books is inevitable, we believe we should expect fair returns in durability and length of book service.

According to persons in a position to judge, very little improvement in the paper situation seems likely before 1921. The inferior paper used in war time can now be replaced by better grades, but at a greatly increased price. This advanced cost is met in some firms by a large advance in selling price, in others by sacrificing the standard of excellence, in others, we regret to say, by doing both.

For illustrated books a heavily glazed paper is required and this adds to the weight of a book and its consequent likelihood of breaking from the binding.

In respect to bindings the Committee is beginning to voice the libraries' protests to the publishers in the hope that they will realize how seriously the faulty output will affect their library trade.

The notes on the physical make-up and wearing qualities of children's books have been continued by Miss Wheelock of St. Louis, who began a study for this purpose last year. These annotations are proving of real value in our correspondence with publishers. Already one request has come from a well-known house for permission to see the notes relating to its own publications. After examining them the representative writes that he would greatly appreciate seeing reports on any other titles as the Committee examines them, adding that, "it is only through frank

criticism of this sort that the highest ideals of publishing may be obtained."

A similar spirit has been shown whenever the Committee has made its recommendations. Another publisher writes, "Your suggestions relative to binding, etc., were very helpful and we shall take advantage of them in subsequent printings." Although this cordial readiness to accept friendly criticism indicates the sincerity of purpose in our best publishing houses, it seems important to proceed slowly and use tact in passing on to others our frank judgments on their work.

As to any lowering of book prices all hopes have vanished. On the first of July book binders are to have a still further advance in wages, and the publishers will have to pay it or cease publishing. The

libraries will be obliged to reduce purchase still more.

Other fields of possible activity open as the publishers recognize the Committee as representative of the children's librarians of the country. Perhaps because of Mr. Hoyt's paper at the Asbury Park Conference, the Houghton, Mifflin Company does so regard the Committee and recently referred to it a question concerning the scope of a proposed book. Members of the Committee made separate comments upon the plan announced and we are told that author and publisher found them helpful.

It is hoped that more definite results will be accomplished in the next year of work.

ALICE M. JORDAN,  
Chairman.

## LENDING SECTION

The first meeting of the Lending Section was held at Colorado Springs on Saturday, June 5, 1920.

In the absence of Miss Florence Overton, Chairman of the Lending Section, Miss Esther Johnston, of the New York Public Library, presided, with Miss Cora Hendee, Librarian, Public Library, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Secretary.

A letter from the Executive Board of the A. L. A. authorizing the converting of the Round Table into a Section was read. Miss Louise Prouty of the Cleveland Public Library was appointed chairman of a nominating committee, and Miss Jennette Drake, of the Pasadena Public Library, was appointed chairman of a committee on organization.

The principal topic of the afternoon, presented by Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Librarian, St. Louis Public Library, was

THE LENDING DEPARTMENT STAFF: STIMULATING AND DEVELOPING NEW AND YOUNGER MEMBERS THROUGH STAFF MEETINGS, CONTACT WITH NEW BOOKS, BOOK REVIEWS, OPPORTUNITY FOR ORIGINAL WORK

Doctor Bostwick's delightful talk emphasizing the value of staff meetings was provocative of an interesting discussion in which Miss Kostomlatzky of Portland, Miss Prouty of Cleveland, and Miss Flex-

ner of Louisville, spoke from different viewpoints.

Miss Amy Meyer, of the Detroit Public Library, read an admirable paper on

DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF A CIRCULATING MUSIC COLLECTION

(See p. 182)

Her paper was based upon her experience in building up the Detroit Music Collection, and spoke for both librarian and musician.

Miss Florence Bradley read a paper by Miss Dorothy G. Lawton of the 58th Street Branch of the New York Public Library on

THE LIBRARY'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS NATIONAL MUSIC

(See p. 180)

Mr. Greene of the Oakland Public Library contributed to the discussion, his experience in the circulation of church music. He was followed by Miss Flexner, of Louisville, and Miss Van Dyne of Newark.

Miss Ethel McCollough, of the Evansville Library, gave a ten-minute talk on

PAMPHLETS AND CLIPPINGS

(See p. 160)

Miss McCollough emphasized the importance of such timely and inexpensive aids, rather than the technical points in-